

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**Date Due: August 19, 2015**

*Athletic Committee*

**University of North Alabama**  
**Florence, Alabama**

Dr. Miranda Bowie  
*Committee Chair*

August 18, 2015  
Date submitted

Submitted to: Dr. Kenneth Kitts  
*President, University of North Alabama*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date received

# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

## ANNUAL REPORT

### I. Executive Summary

The members of the Athletic Committee for the 2014-15 academic year were as follows:

- Mr. Ben Baker (*by position*)
- Dr. Miranda Bowie (*Faculty, 2015*)
- Mr. Daryl Brown (*Faculty, 2015*)
- Ms. Lisa Burton (*by position*)
- Mr. J.C. Carr (*SGA, 2015*)
- Mr. Clinton Carter (*by position*)
- Dr. Lisa Clayton (*Faculty, 2017*)
- Mr. Green Davison V (*SGA, 2015*)
- Mr. Mark Linder (*by position*)
- Ms. Doris McDaniel (*Faculty, 2016*)
- Ms. Christa Raney (*Faculty, 2015*)
- Dr. Pat Roden (*by position*)
- Mr. David Shields (*by position*)
- Mr. Dominic Summerhill (*SGA, 2015*)
- Ms. Debbie Williams (*by position*)

Dr. Miranda Bowie served as Committee Chair for 2014-15 and Dr. Lisa Clayton is expected to serve as chair for the 2014-15 academic year. The Gender Equity Sub-Committee continued working to update the strategic plan. The Minority Opportunity Sub-Committee continued the Minority Student Athlete Mentoring Program. Christa Raney and Daryl Brown served as Chairs of the Minority Opportunity Mentoring Program. In addition to the work of the subcommittees, the Athletics Committee focused discussions on the welfare of student athletes particularly in the areas of grade checks, facilities, and equal dining opportunities.

## II. Committee's Charge

1. Ensure the proper role of athletics within the overall mission of the university
2. Ensure the integrity of the athletics program with regard to NCAA, Gulf South Conference, state and federal law compliance, gender equity, and support for the principles presented by the Knight Foundation's Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics
3. Review and monitor (as necessary, assist in developing) all compliance procedures and recommend institutional procedural changes based upon changes in NCAA rules
4. Assign and document responsibilities for compliance tasks
5. Work to maintain the proper perspective of athletic competition within the university life of the student-athlete
6. Monitor the academic performance and progress made by student-athletes
7. Oversee all programs designed to ensure the academic success, personal development and personal welfare of student-athletes
8. Handle all proposals affecting University policy according to section C.2 "Shared Governance Procedure for Policy Change Recommendations"
9. To submit a final written report electronically by the first contract day of the academic year to the President with a copy sent to the Chair of the Shared Governance Executive Committee

## III. The Committee met on the following dates:

October 2, 2014; November 4, 2014; December 11, 2014; February 3, 2015; March 17, 2015; April 21, 2015

- A. A quorum was present for each of the above meeting dates except December 11, 2015.

- B. The minutes for these committee meetings were recorded by Peggy Wingo who serves as the Senior Administrative Secretary for the Department of Athletics. Minutes were reviewed by the chair and forwarded to the committee via email prior to each meeting.
- 
- IV. What were the Committee's actions and accomplishments this year relative to each of the items of the charge?
    1. The Committee discussed the Athletic Department Policy and Procedure Guide and made recommended changes to the Student Athlete Handbook.
    2. The Faculty Athletic Representative, Dr. Pat Roden, discussed her findings from her investigation into an article written in FlorAla alleging preferential treatment of athletes.
    3. The Committee received updates from the Faculty Athletic Representative about the administration of several NCAA required surveys including an exit survey for student-athletes who have exhausted their eligibility, a substance abuse survey, and a NCAA goals survey. The Committee was also informed about the new legislation which was passed at the 2015 NCAA Division II Convention in January 2015.
    4. The Gender Equity Committee updated the strategic plan.
    5. Dr. Pat Roden submitted the paperwork to form a chapter of the Chi Alpha Sigma National College Athlete Honor Society. To be eligible for membership, student-athletes must have earned a varsity letter in their sport, achieved at least a junior academic standing by their fifth semester, and achieved a minimum 3.4 cumulative GPA. Having the opportunity to be recognized by their teammates and coaches for their academic achievements will help maintain a proper perspective of athletic competition within the university life of the student-athletes.
    6. The Committee discussed returning to Grades First for student-athlete grade checks. Grades First is an online software program that communicates with Banner to send electronic grade checks directly to the faculty. The Committee discussed the need for administrative support in order to have a higher faculty response rate than in the past.

7.
  - a. The Minority Opportunities sub-committee implemented the Minority Student-Athlete Mentoring Program in the spring 2015 semester with 11 mentors and 10 mentees. The sub-committee planned four group events to help facilitate the mentor/mentee relationships. These included an introductory meeting in the Lion's Den on January 6, the UNA vs. UAH basketball games on February 28, the UNA vs. Spring Hill baseball game on April 7, and a final meeting on April 29.
  - b. The Athletic Department kept the Committee informed about current and future updates to the athletic facilities which would benefit the personal welfare of the student-athletes. These included the new weightlifting facility, updated meeting rooms and locker rooms, and the possible repurposing of the fieldhouse racquetball court into a student-athlete academic center.
  - c. The Committee discussed an issue with the hours of operation of Towers Cafeteria which closes at 7:00pm. Student-athletes who have late practice times are unable to eat before 7:00pm. With the new live-on requirement this time issue will likely affect more students, not just student-athletes, in the future. Many other Gulf South Conference School cafeterias close at 9:00. Mark Linder made a motion that the Committee support to extend the hours of operation to accommodate all UNA students. Christa Raney seconded and the motion passed.
8. No action was taken.

V. What were the Committee's formal recommendations this year?

The committee endorsed the request of the Athletic Director, Mark Linder, to submit a request to the Strategic Planning and Budget Study Committee to increase the Athletic scholarship budget by using a fixed cost model representing a number of scholarships instead of a monetary amount.

VI. What does the Committee plan to accomplish?

A. In the coming year?

- a) The Committee will continue to address the issue with the dining facility operating hours.

- b) The Committee will work with the Gender Equity Subcommittee to institute the amended strategic plan.
- c) The Athletics Committee and the Minority Opportunity Sub-Committee will continue to monitor the progress of the Minority Mentoring Program.
- d) The Athletics Committee will continue to work with the Athletics Department in addressing student-athlete personal welfare concerns.
- e) The Athletics Committee will encourage the academic support for the student-athletes.

B. In future years?

- a) The Committee will continue to assist the Athletic Department in working toward Gender and Minority equity in order to ensure continued progress in these areas as required by the NCAA.
- b) The Committee will monitor and support the Athletic Department with regards to NCAA and GSC rules compliance.

VII. What are the Committee's weaknesses?

Student participation in committee meetings continues to be almost nonexistent.

A. What can the Shared Governance Committee help you do to address the weaknesses?

The Shared Governance Committee could stress the importance of committee meeting attendance to the SGA.

III. Comments.  
None